

Communication Rights for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing



As a member of the deaf or hard of hearing community, you have certain rights when communicating with a member of the Metropolitan Police Department.

If You are a Victim or Witness

1. You may choose the form of communication that you prefer to use such as the use of notes, gestures, or available printed materials.
2. You have the right to be assisted by a qualified interpreter at no cost to you, within the limits of time and convenience that might be applicable to the situation.

If You are a Suspect or Under Arrest

1. You have the right to a qualified interpreter that will explain your Constitutional rights at no cost to you.
2. You have the right to refuse to answer questions and to have a lawyer with you before and during any questioning.

Other Police Contacts

In most situations, you are free to choose any form of communication that allows you to interact with the police, including the use of notes, gestures, or available printed materials.

There are teletype (TTY) devices for deaf communication installed at all principal police facilities to improve police communication with deaf or hard of hearing citizens.

Each of the seven police stations is equipped with a Video Relay Service (see over for locations) to assist you to effectively communicate. There are video phones installed at all principal police facilities for deaf individuals who need to place a telephone call from a police station.

Deaf and hard of hearing residents should continue to dial **9-1-1** for reporting police, fire and medical emergencies. 9-1-1 is TTY-compatible.

TTY Numbers and Locations for Video Relay Systems

(All District stations are VRS-equipped)

District	Address	TTY Number
First	101 M Street, SW	(202) 727-8506
Second	3320 Idaho Ave, NW	(202) 364-3961
Third	1620 V St, NW	(202) 518-0008
Fourth	6001 Georgia Ave, NW	(202) 722-1791
Fifth	1805 Bladensburg Rd, NE	(202) 727-5437
Sixth	100 42nd St, SE	(202) 398-5397
Seventh	2455 Alabama Ave, SE	(202) 889-3574

Liaison Unit	Address	Phone Numbers
Asian (ALU)	300 Indiana Avenue, NW Room 4056	(202) 724-8009
Deaf & Hard of Hearing (DHHU)	801 Shepherd Street, NW	(202) 629-0289
Gay & Lesbian (GLLU)	1369-A Connecticut Avenue, NW	(202) 727-5427 (202) 347-8164 (TTY) (202) 506-0714*
Latino (LLU)	1800 Columbia Road, NW	(202) 673-4445 (202) 498-9829*

*Duty/on-call phone

About the Video Relay Service

The Metropolitan Police Department provides the capability for members of the deaf and hard of hearing community to communicate with its members. Each police district station now offers a video relay service which enables those who rely on American Sign Language to access a live interpreter via a computer and video camera at the station desk. Station personnel are trained in the use and operation of the technology and can assist members of the community to establish a connection.